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OTHER MATTERS

Venue of sessions of the Governing Council

Note by the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present note provides additional detailed information on, inter alia, attendance and actual costs of holding sessions at Geneva or in New York, as requested by the Governing Council in paragraph 2 of its decision 92/41 of 26 May 1992.

The Governing Council decided in paragraph 3 of its decision 92/41 to transmit the texts contained in documents DP/1992/L.5/Rev.1 and DP/1992/L.22 for consideration at its fortieth session. For easy reference, these two draft decisions are reproduced in annex I and II to the present note.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 92/41 of 26 May 1992, the Governing Council decided to review the issue of the venue of sessions of the Council at its fortieth session and to that effect include in its provisional agenda for the fortieth session an item called "Venue of sessions of the Governing Council".

2. In paragraph 2 of decision 92/41, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to provide additional detailed information on, inter alia, attendance and actual costs of holding sessions at Geneva or in New York and invited the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) to report thereon to the Governing Council at its fortieth session.

3. The additional information requested by the Governing Council is provided in the present note. The comments of ACABQ will be provided separately to the Council when available.

4. In paragraph 3 of decision 92/41, the Governing Council decided to transmit the texts contained in DP/1992/L.5/Rev.1 and DP/1992/L.22 for consideration at its fortieth session. The two draft decisions are reproduced in annex I and II to the present note.

5. Reference is made to the note by the Administrator prepared for the thirty-ninth session (DP/1992/49), which contained detailed background information on the question of venue of sessions of the Governing Council.

I. ATTENDANCE

6. Information regarding attendance during Governing Council sessions 1988-1992 is set out in annex III to the present note. The source of this information is the list of representatives to sessions of the Governing Council in the period 1988-1992, as contained in the following documents: DP/1988/INF/4/Rev.3, DP/1989/INF/2, DP/1990/INF/2/Rev.1, DP/1991/INF/4 and DP/1992/INF/6.

II. BUDGETARY REVIEW

A. Incremental costs to UNDP of the Governing Council

7. Information was provided in document DP/1992/49 on the estimated incremental costs to UNDP of the 1992 Governing Council session in Geneva. An ex post facto review identified additional incremental costs to UNDP of $33,275. The incremental costs of the Geneva session are set out in annex IV to the present note.

B. Conference-servicing costs

8. At the request of UNDP, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget Division, of the United Nations has provided apportioned actual expenditures based on

actual workload for the sessions of the Governing Council in 1991 (New York) and Geneva (1992). The results of the cost apportionment are shown in the two tables in annex V. Table 1 shows a comparison between the costs of the Governing Council in 1991, when its regular session was held in New York, and in 1992, when its regular session was held in Geneva. Table 2 shows the distribution of the 1992 costs between New York and Geneva.

9. In responding to UNDP's request, the United Nations attempted to apportion the costs of the Governing Council sessions in 1991 and 1992 as a percentage of total actual expenditures based on actual workload. As statistics are not kept by session, the costs cover all sessions of the Governing Council during the respective years. The costs shown for Geneva relate to the costs of interpretation and in-session documentation of the regular session of the Governing Council in 1992. The costs of pre-session documentation for the 1992 session held in Geneva are part of New York costs since pre-session work in 1992 was done mainly in New York. New York costs in 1992 also include the costs of the 1992 organizational and special sessions.

Annex I

The following draft decision was distributed at the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council in DP/1992/L.5/Rev.1:

DRAFT DECISION PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA*, COLOMBIA*, EGYPT*, INDIA, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, PERU*, PHILIPPINES* AND URUGUAY

Venue of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, in particular paragraph 3 (h) of the annex thereto,

Having considered the question of the venue of the Governing Council,

Decides to inform the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the Governing Council convenes its meetings only in the location of the United Nations Development Programme headquarters, namely New York, from 1993 onwards, unless it is decided specifically to meet at other places.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Annex II

The following draft decision was distributed at the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council in DP/1992/L.22:

DRAFT DECISION SUBMITTED BY BELGIUM, BULGARIA, FRANCE, POLAND, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SWITZERLAND AND TURKEY*

Venue of sessions of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in particular paragraph 4 (a) thereof,

Also recalling Governing Council decision 89/63 of 30 June 1989,

Having considered the question of the venue of the Governing Council,

Awaiting the outcome of the debate initiated by General Assembly decision 46/465 of 20 December 1991 on strengthening of the work of the United Nations in the field of operational activities,

Decides to continue to hold its regular sessions alternately at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the United Nations Office at Geneva in accordance with rule 1 of its rules of procedure.

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Annex III

ATTENDANCE DURING GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSIONS 1988-1992

Venue	Representatives	Geneva-based	New York-based	From capital	Total
Geneva 1988	Members	69	39	142	250
	Observers	102	7	41	150
	United Nations bodies	16	10	3	29
	Specialized agencies	24	0	21	45
New York 1989	Members	0	131	154	285
	Observers	0	168	41	209
	United Nations bodies	5	19	3	27
	Specialized agencies	10	13	17	40
Geneva 1990	Members	85	49	165	299
	Observers	115	10	70	195
	United Nations bodies	39	3	5	47
	Specialized agencies	34	2	26	62
New York 1991	Members	0	133	125	258
	Observers	0	175	30	205
	United Nations bodies	6	22	3	31
	Specialized agencies	17	9	18	44
Geneva 1992	Members	83	46	137	266
	Observers	139	12	65	216
	United Nations bodies	13	12	4	29
	Specialized agencies	34	2	18	54

Annex IV

ESTIMATED INCREMENTAL COSTS TO UNDP OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

4-27 May 1992 a/

		New York	Geneva	Incremental cost
		(United States dollars)		
1.	Travel	23 360	267 100 b/	243 740
2.	Communications c/	-	8 000	8 000
3.	Minibus rental	-	9 827	9 827
4.	Temporary assistance	10 000	22 000 d/	12 000
5.	Equipment rental e/	-	25 169	25 169
6.	Computer operations consultant	-	2 013	2 013
7.	Computer supplies	-	3 766	3 766
				304 515

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a/ Items for which the costs are the same have been excluded.

b/ Travel costs relate to a cadre of 38 UNDP staff whose participation for the full Governing Council session was required. In addition, provision was made for 248 days of attendance by other UNDP staff for specific items. Incremental travel funds, where necessary, have been included for these purposes.

c/ Includes fax, telephones, pouch, cables, etc.

d/ Includes driver for vehicle, and pre-session secretarial support.

e/ Includes computers, printers, typewriters, photocopier and fax machine.

Annex V

Table 1. Estimated costs of 1991 and 1992 sessions of the UNDP Governing Council

	1991 (New York)		1992 (New York and Geneva)	
	Workload	Apportioned costs $	Workload	Apportioned costs $
Meeting servicing	146	49 800	171	63 700
Interpretation (meetings)	109	500 800	126	542 300
Translation and précis writing (words)	3 632 350	1 768 700	3 400 100	1 412 300
Text processing (words)	7 409 500	813 300	7 817 200	789 500
Reproduction (page impressions)	17 465 500	442 000	25 635 800	535 600
Distribution (documents)	750 000	51 600	1 868 900	263 000
Documents control	a/	56 500	a/	60 500
Total		3 682 700		3 666 900

a/ Cost was apportioned on basis of translation workload.

Table 2. Distribution of costs of 1992 session of the UNDP Governing Council between New York and Geneva

	1992 (New York)		1992 (Geneva)		1992 Total	
	Workload	Apportioned costs $	Workload	Apportioned costs $	Workload	Apportioned costs $
Meeting servicing	30	7 300	141	56 400	171	63 700
Interpretation (meetings)	29	122 300	97	420 000	126	542 300
Translation and précis writing (words)	2 393 600	978 900	1 006 500	433 400	3 400 100	1 412 300
Text processing (words)	4 615 700	562 700	3 201 500	226 800	7 817 200	789 500
Reproduction (page impressions)	21 683 900	429 500	3 951 900	106 100	25 635 800	535 600
Distribution (documents)	800 000	73 400 a/	1 068 900	189 600	1 868 900	263 000
Documents control	b/	36 500	b/	24 000	b/	60 500
Total		2 210 600		1 456 300		3 666 900

a/ Excluding costs of packing and shipping documents to Geneva.

b/ Costs were apportioned on basis of translation workload.